

RACING THIS WEEK

XFINITY BONUS: Connor Zilisch (L) with Shane van Gisbergen prior to Friday practice for Saturday's Pit Boss/FoodMaxx 250 at Sonoma. The two would go on to battle all day with Zilisch grabbing the win. **C. Graythen/Getty**



XFINITY RECAP

• **Saturday's** PIT BOSS/FOODMAXX 250, Sonoma Raceway



WINNER: CONNOR ZILISCH

SONOMA, Calif.—In closing laps of the Pit Boss/FoodMaxx 250 at Sonoma Raceway, the pupil schooled the master.

Taking shot after shot from JR Motorsports teammate Shane van Gisbergen over the final two laps, Connor Zilisch held off the more experienced driver to claim his third Xfinity Series victory of the season and the fourth of his career.

In what was a two-driver show from start to finish, Zilisch and van Gisbergen, the pole winner, combined to lead 70 of the 79 laps, surrendering the top spot only when they short-pitted the first and second stages to recover track position at stage breaks.

For Zilisch, the victory was revenge for the Xfinity race at Chicago Street Course, where the 36-year-old van Gisbergen ran his 18-year-old teammate wide in Turn 2 to take the lead and win a two-lap shootout.

But this Saturday, Zilisch survived contact from van Gisbergen's front bumper in Turn 7 on the final lap and won the race to the finish line, as the New Zealander tried in vain to cross over to the inside in hairpin Turn 11 on the final lap.

Zilisch powered off the corner and won the race by 0.438 seconds.

"First, hats off to Shane," Zilisch said after climbing from his car. "That was awesome. "All race long, I felt like we were racing each other with respect. I wheel-hopped a little bit in Turn 7 one time and got into him. Otherwise, it was awesome to get to race against him finally and battle with him the whole race long."

Both Zilisch and van Gisbergen managed to pull away from the rest of the field while saving fuel during the final stage.

"It's always the hardest trying to save fuel while someone's breathing down your neck, Zilisch said. "There was a chance that he could have gotten by me when he hit me, but he let me have it and raced me clean. I respect the hell out of him for that, and I'm looking forward to racing against him more."

SvG knew he had an opening when his No. 9 Chevrolet made contact with Zilisch's No. 88 in Turn 7, but he backed off to let the race play out.

"I gave him a bump into 7, and he wheel-hopped, and I probably could have taken it, but I just waited," said van Gisbergen, the defending race winner. "I didn't want to do it like that, and then we raced down the hill. What an awesome race."

Zilisch led 46 laps to 24 for van Gisbergen, who was trying for his third straight NASCAR victory in as many starts after sweeping Chicago.

Solid work on pit road gave Zilisch control of the race for the final restart on Lap 51, and he led the rest of the way, thwarting SVG's persistent attempts to pressure him into a mistake.

William Sawalich, who won Friday's ARCA race in a thrilling finish, was the best of the rest, coming home third, 13.668 seconds behind Zilisch. Nick Sanchez ran fourth, followed by Riley Herbst, series leader Justin Allgaier, Taylor Gray, Carson Kvapil, Sammy Smith and Sheldon Creed.

TOYOTA/SAVE MART 350

Shane van Gisbergen has now won three of the last five Cup Series races, including back-to-back victories after his triumph in the Chicago Street Race. Sunday's win ties him for the series lead this season with fellow three-time winners Kyle Larson, Denny Hamlin and Christopher Bell.



Eventual winner Shane van Gisbergen, driver of the #88 Red Bull Chevrolet, leads the field during the Cup Series Toyota/Save Mart 350 at Sonoma Raceway on Sunday. (Chris Graythen/Getty Images)

Road course warrior SvG rules at Sonoma

SONOMA, Calif. — Shane van Gisbergen proved on Sunday that it's impossible to keep a road course superstar down for more than a brief interlude.

After finishing second to Connor Zilisch in Saturday's Xfinity Series race, van Gisbergen was back on top on a pleasant Sunday afternoon in wine country, winning the Toyota/Save Mart 350 at Sonoma Raceway.

As has become his custom of late, the New Zealander reached a trio of milestones, winning his third straight road/street course race from the pole position to equal Jeff Gordon's feat from 1998 and 1999.

The victory was van Gisbergen's third of the season in his first trip around the 1.99-mile, 12-turn circuit in a Cup Series car. SVG won for the fourth time in 34 starts, becoming the quickest to four wins since Parnelli Jones won at Riverside in 1967 in his 31st Cup start.

His 97 laps led are the most by a Sonoma winner, eclipsing Jeff Gordon's high-water mark of 92 set in 2004.

"We had an amazing car," van Gisbergen said. "Chase Briscoe, what a great racer and gave me respect. Jumped the last (restart) a little bit, and it was pretty tense, but amazing. So stoked for Red Bull, Trackhouse, Chevy. I believe we had a really fun weekend here, some great races, and I hope everyone enjoyed that."

The winner of 81 Australian Supercars races on the way to three championships in the series, van Gisbergen already is being touted as perhaps the best road course racer in NASCAR history.

"I had an amazing time in Australia, and then to come here and the last couple weeks or years actually has been a dream come true," said the 36-year-old driver of the No. 88 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet. "I've really enjoyed my time in NASCAR. Thanks, everyone, for making me feel so welcome. I hope I'm here for a long time to come."

Winning the second stage despite short-pitting to preserve track position, van Gisbergen advanced to third on the current Cup Playoff grid with 17 Playoff points. He arrived at the finish line 1.128 seconds ahead of consistent Chase Briscoe, but the win was far from guaranteed, given the chaos of the final 15 laps.

SVG had to survive three cautions and

subsequent restarts in the late stages of the race to seal the win, as a large group of drivers on better tires chased those who had stayed on the track (including the race winner) after the No. 51 Ford of Cody Ware jettisoned a tire and caused a yellow on Lap 97.

Briscoe qualified second and finished where he felt he deserved.

"The only opportunity I had was on the restarts," Briscoe said. "I never played basketball against Michael Jordan in his prime, but I feel like that's probably what it was like. That guy is unbelievable on road courses. He's just so good. He's really raised the bar on this entire series."

"Proud of the effort. I thought there was one restart I was maybe going to get clear of him, but truthfully, even if I cleared him, he was probably going to pass me back by the end of the lap. Yeah, proud of the effort. We were a second-place car all day and obviously ended up second with it."

Chase Elliott pitted on Lap 97 for fresher tires and came home third after restarting 14th on Lap 100. Michael McDowell, on the same strategy as Elliott, climbed to fourth at the finish, while Christopher Bell held fifth on older tires.

It was nice to be on offense and give ourselves a shot," Elliott said. "I wish I could have made it happen there. I was trying, but I just couldn't get going like we needed to there at the end."

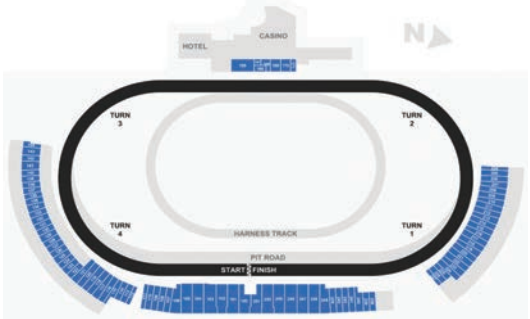
The action on the final few laps was attributable in part to battles within the NASCAR Cup In-Season Challenge. In Sunday's third round at Sonoma, 32nd seed Ty Dillon bumped the No. 48 Chevrolet of Alex Bowman out of the way on the final lap to finish 17th to Bowman's 19th and keep his hopes for the \$1-million prize alive.

Dillon will face John Hunter Nemechek in next Sunday semifinals at Dover Motor Speedway. Nemechek finished one spot ahead of LEGACY Motor Club teammate Erik Jones (28th to 29th) to advance to the fourth round.

Ty Gibbs moved into the tournament semifinals with a seventh-place finish to Zane Smith's 27th, and Tyler Reddick ousted Ryan Preece with a sixth-place run to Preece's 12th. Gibbs and Reddick will face off at the Monster Mile for a trip to the finals.

William Byron, Joey Logano and Kyle Busch completed the top 10 in a race that featured six cautions for 17 laps.

NEXT: AUTOTRADER ECHOPARK 400



Dover Motor Speedway
2 p.m. ET Sunday, TNT

• Dover (Del.) Motor Speedway (formerly Dover Downs International Speedway and later Dover International Speedway) has hosted at least one Cup Series race each year since 1969, including two per year from 1971 to 2020.



• Nicknamed "The Monster Mile," it was built in 1969 by Melvin L. Joseph Construction Company, Inc., with an asphalt surface, but was replaced with concrete in 1995.

Length: One mile

Track surface: Concrete

Safety apron and pit road surface: Asphalt, with concrete pit boxes

Banking: Straightaways, 9 degrees; Turns, 24 degrees

Width: Straightaways, 48 feet; Turns, 58 feet

Safety apron: Encircles the inside of the track, 10 feet wide on straightaways, and 21 feet wide in the turns.

Number of pit positions: 40, with water and electric

Length of straightaways: 1,076 feet

Length of pit road: 1,580 feet long, and 47 feet wide

Monster Mile Cup records:

Fastest qualifying lap, Denny Hamlin, 166.984 mph (21.559 seconds), Oct. 5, 2019

Fastest race (400 miles), Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 135.734 mph (2:56:49), Oct. 6, 2019

Fastest race (500 miles), Bill Elliott, Ford, 125.945 mph (3:58:00), Sept. 16, 1990



Denny Hamlin took the "Monster Mile" hardware home last year at Dover. GETTY

2025 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of July 13

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 William Byron #24	668	16 AJ Allmendinger #16	419
2 Chase Elliott #9	654	17 Ty Gibbs #54	409
3 Kyle Larson #5	624	18 Erik Jones #43	401
4 Tyler Reddick #45	615	19 Michael McDowell #71	399
5 Denny Hamlin #11	606	20 Austin Cindric #2	396
6 Christopher Bell #20	597	21 Josh Berry #21	390
7 Ryan Blaney #12	545	22 J.H. Nemechek #42	384
8 Chase Briscoe #19	526	23 Ricky Stenhouse #47	378
9 Ross Chastain #1	513	24 Carson Hocevar #77	373
10 Chris Buescher #17	500	25 Zane Smith #38	373
11 Joey Logano #22	499	26 Shane v Gisbergen #88	367
12 Alex Bowman #48	498	27 Brad Keselowski #6	333
13 Bubba Wallace #23	469	28 Austin Dillon #3	331
14 Ryan Preece #60	466	29 Daniel Suárez #99	330
15 Kyle Busch #8	432	30 Todd Gilliland #34	321

2025 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of July 12

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Justin Allgaier #7	686	11 Taylor Gray #54	486
2 Sam Mayer #41	627	12 Jeb Burton #27	480
3 Austin Hill #21	622	13 Harrison Burton #25	464
4 Connor Zilisch #88	617	14 Ryan Sieg #39	430
5 Jesse Love #2	582	15 Dean Thompson #26	414
6 Carson Kvapil #1	554	16 Christian Eckes #16	399
7 Brandon Jones #20	527	17 Daniel Dye #10	396
8 Sheldon Creed #00	518	18 Brennan Poole #44	368
9 Nicholas Sanchez #48	507	19 Josh Williams #11	351
10 Sammy Smith #8	502	20 Jeremy Clements #51	333

NEXT RACE: BETRIVERS 200, Dover Motor Speedway, 4:30 p.m. ET Saturday, CW

2025 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of June 28

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Corey Heim #11	689	11 Stewart Friesen #52	395
2 Chandler Smith #38	546	12 Ben Rhodes #99	394
3 Layne Riggs #34	525	13 Rajah Caruth #71	384
4 Daniel Hemric #19	514	14 Tanner Gray #15	361
5 Kaden Honeycutt #45	491	15 Connor Mosack #81	321
6 Grant Enfinger #9	488	16 Matt Crafton #88	309
7 Tyler Ankrum #18	468	17 A. Perez De Lara #77	297
8 Ty Majeski #98	462	18 Jack Wood #91	287
9 Jake Garcia #13	424	19 Matt Mills #42	273
10 Gio Ruggiero #17	397	20 Dawson Sutton #26	256

NEXT RACE: TSPORT 200 AT IRP, Indianapolis Raceway Park, 8 p.m. ET Friday, July 25, FS1

SONOMA WINNER QUOTE

"We had an amazing car. Chase Briscoe, what a great racer and gave me respect. Jumped the last (restart) a little bit, and it was pretty tense, but amazing. So stoked for Red Bull, Trackhouse, Chevy. I believe we had a really fun weekend here, some great races, and I hope everyone enjoyed that."

— *Shane van Gisbergen, who grabbed his second straight Cup win Sunday at Sonoma*



Shane van Gisbergen does his iconic rugby ball kick into the stands after winning.

ALEJANDRO ALVAREZ/
NASCAR

ALL AMERICAN

SUB + MELT

Country Fair

FRESH & LOCAL

Declare your freedom from hunger with ham, Smith's bologna, hard salami and cheese on a toasty pretzel bun or piled high on a Barnbuster sub.